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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP INTELLIGENCE RECONFIDENTIAL

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COUNTRY

Iraq/frans-Jorden

SUBJECT

Attitude of Taha Hashimi Toward the Greater Syria Plan DATE:

INFO.

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PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

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- Taha Hashimi, Iraqi ex-Minister of War who is currently living in Istanbul, went to Beirut via Damascus in late April.
- 2. While in Beirut he was visited by Moslem notables, including Muhammad Khalid, Sheikh Munir Muqaddam (Druze religious jurist), 'Umar Bayhum, and Abd-al-Hamid Karemah (a leading supporter of Fawzi Qawaqji).
- 3. He is reported to have declared to them that the formation of a Greater Syria with King 'Abdallah of Trans-Jordan at its head would be a great danger to the independence of Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine, as well as a threat to Iraq.
- Hashimi is said to be working, not only against 'Abdallah, but also against the present Iraqi Government in general, and against Nuri Sa'id in particular.

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Munir Muqaddam and 'Umar Bayhum have recently come to notice as members of the opposition. Both of them attended an antigovernment meeting at the home of the Mufti of Lebanon on 10 April. At that meeting Muqaddam made a long speech to the effect that no election free of foreign influence could be held in Lebanon, as American, British, and especially French forces were at work.

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